

The Ohio Legislature's majority leadership's love-affair with EdChoice vouchers is causing multiple public policy problems.

EdChoice vouchers funding has caused, or at least contributed heavily to, the property tax problem and the state's failure to fully fund the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding plan.

The legislature was faced with the problem of out-of-control property tax increases. That branch of government essentially said public school districts are the cause and enacted legislation that would essentially force some districts to return funds to property taxpayers.

The legislature failed to fully fund the Cupp/Patterson Fair School Funding Plan, which it had previously adopted. (The actual cost to fund categorical programs such as disadvantaged and other special need students is an additional concern not yet fully addressed.)

The legislature has been reducing some state revenue sources.

The legislature continues to spend billions on vouchers, particularly the EdChoice variety.

EdChoice vouchers have been declared unconstitutional.

What is the solution? It is not rocket science.

The solution is remarkably straightforward.

State officials have the constitutional responsibility to secure, by taxation or otherwise, a thorough and efficient system of common schools. Period! This precludes funding EdChoice vouchers or any other like gimmicks. A constitutional system of school funding would rely on much less property tax. The current level of EdChoice voucher funding would largely fill the gap between the current level of state funding for public schools and the constitutional level of state funding required.

The universal EdChoice voucher scheme is the program that caused all these other related issues. Ohioans are beginning to put these pieces of the puzzle together.